

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A carbohydrate foam comprising:

- (a) a matrix comprising a regenerated carbohydrate material produced from an aqueous carbohydrate composition comprising a water-insoluble carbohydrate, wherein the carbohydrate is at least partially dissolved in an aqueous zinc chloride solution capable of at least partially dissolving the carbohydrate; and
- (b) a plurality of pores dispersed within the matrix, wherein the pores are produced by introduction of a gas into the aqueous carbohydrate composition prior to regeneration.

Claim 2 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate is selected from cellulose or chitin.

Claim 3 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate comprises cellulose and the cellulose is selected from mixed office waste or fluffed pulp.

Claim 4 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein a plurality of the pores are open-celled.

Claim 5 (original): An absorbent product comprising a porous absorbent material wherein the porous absorbent material comprises the carbohydrate foam of claim 1.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The absorbent product of claim 5, wherein the product is selected from diapers, sanitary napkins, sponges, bandages, facial tissue, or paper towels.

March 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 28, 2003

Claim 7 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein the foam is in the form of a sheet.

Claim 8 (original): The carbohydrate foam sheet of claim 7, wherein the pores on the surface of the sheet are substantially closed-celled and the pores on the interior of the sheet are substantially open-celled.

Claim 9 (original): A facial tissue comprising the carbohydrate foam sheet of claim 7.

Claim 10 (original): A paper towel comprising the carbohydrate foam sheet of claim 7.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): The carbohydrate foam of claim 11, wherein the aqueous zinc chloride solution is from about 60% to about 75% ZnCl₂ in water.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The carbohydrate foam of claim 11, wherein the aqueous zinc chloride solution is from about 65% to about 70% ZnCl₂ in water.

Claim 14 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein the aqueous carbohydrate solution further comprises a salt.

Claim 15 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 14, wherein the salt is CaCl₂.

Claim 16 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein the aqueous carbohydrate solution further comprises a surfactant..

March 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 28, 2003

Claim 17 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein the gas is selected from air, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, helium or argon.

Claim 18 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein a blowing agent is used to introduce gas with the aqueous carbohydrate solution.

Claim 19 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 18, wherein the blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen or ammonium chloride.

Claim 20 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein said foam is regenerated with a regenerating agent.

Claim 21 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 20, wherein the regenerating agent is water.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The carbohydrate foam of claim 20, ~~wherein the aqueous solution comprises an aqueous solution of zinc chloride, and wherein excess zinc chloride is removed prior to regeneration.~~

Claim 23 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 22, wherein the removal of excess zinc chloride comprises contacting the foam with an organic solvent.

Claim 24 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 23, wherein the organic solvent is selected from ethanol, methanol, or isopropanol.

Claim 25 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprises at least two carbohydrates.

Appl. No. 10/038,756

March 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 28, 2003

Claim 26 (original): The carbohydrate foam of claim 25, wherein the carbohydrates comprise cellulose and chitin.

Claim 27 (original): A personal care product comprising the carbohydrate foam of claim 1.

Claim 28 (original): The personal care product of claim 27, wherein the personal care product is a diaper.

Claim 29 (original): The personal care product of claim 27, wherein the personal care product is a feminine care article.